Online Group Discussion - the challenges of urban disinvestment, investment, and gentrification

The readings this week use Portland as a case study of how urban disinvestment, investment, and revitalization can have both positive and negative effects. In these last few weeks of the class, we'd like you to be connecting what you're reading to your current and future experience and practice. So think about what lessons you are learning from these readings and others we have done in the class that you could apply to your own life and work, now or in the future. Some questions to think about:

- Reflect on your own role in changing neighborhoods and how this role has shifted or may shift in your life and living situations. (Here is an interesting example of two urban sociologists doing this kind of reflection: Gentrifier? Who, Me? Interrogating the Gentrifier in the Mirror)
- How can knowledge of the history of specific places and neighborhoods improve your work or your relationships to your community where you live?
- What kinds of challenges do you expect? How might you approach these kinds of issues in a community where you live and/or work?
- How might you approach changing the structure of urban investment and development practices to enhance community social justice and community well-being?
- Also, Julian asks at the end of his piece, if complete streets is the answer, what was the question? And how might we reframe the question so as to help achieve more just communities?

You may have other things you want to say, but those are questions to think about.